as the Bill is passed the mushroom growth of sub-standard colleges will be controlled. Similarly, the Dental Council of India is engaged in amending the Dentists Act,1948 to provide for prior permission of the Council to check the growth of sub-standard dental colleges.

Cases of Gastro-enteritis

527. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of Gastro-enteritis that have been reported during the last four months in the country;

(b) what is the number of cases of deaths due to the disease, State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to contain and eradicate the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Unrecognised Medical Colleges

528. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Indian Express dated the 7th November 1991, under the caption. Unorganised Medical colleges prepare to spew graduates on unsuspecting souls";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what are the reasons for lack of a monitoring system; and

(d) what steps are being taken to strengthen the machinery for reducing the dangers likely to arise from this situation and also for re-examining the cases of existing medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government are aware of the danger of proliferation of sub-standard medical colleges and have accordingly taken action to amend the Indian Medical Council Act to provide necessary powers to the Medical Council of India to approve or disapprove the establishment of new colleges after taking into consideration various factors including facilities of staff, equipment, accommodation, etc. As regards existing medical colleges, there is already a provision under section 19 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 to enable the Council to recommend to the Central Government the derecognition of any medical college which does not confirm to the standards prescribed by it.

529. [*Transferred to the 3rd December, 1991*]

Doctors in India

530. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of doctors at present in the country; and

(b) what steps are being taken to provide more medical facilities to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The estimated number of registered medical practitioners in different systems of medicine in the coun-

try is as follows:

System of medicine	No. of registered medical practitioners	Information available upto
Allopathic	3,96,688	31-12-1990
Ayurveda	3,15,719	31-12-1988
Unani	34,886	31-12-1988
Siddha	11,717	31-12-1988
Homoeopathy	1,48,866	31-12-1988

(b) Health is a State subject. However, the Government of India have been providing all necessary assistance in enabling the States to provide more medical fcilities to the people. India is committed to the goal of Health for All by 2000 A.D. During the successive Plan period action has been taken to reduce the imbalances in health care services between the urban and rural areas in the country. A huge infrastructure of 1.3 lakhs sub-centres, 20,540 primary health centres and 1,862 community health centres has been established throughout the country by 31-12-1990. The total Plan outlay for Health and Family Welfare has increased from Rs. 65.3 crores during First Plan (1519—56) to Rs. 6,649.20 crores during the 7th Plan period. The infant mortality rate has dropped to 94 per 1000 live births in1988 as compared to 134 or 1000 in 1946—50. Life expectancy at birth has been raised to 58.6 years in 1986—91 as compared to 32 years in 1951. Communicable and non-communicable diseases are being tackled through national eradication and control programmes.

Addition of beds in Hospitals in Delhi

531. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the number of beds added in various Government hospitals in Delhi at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan as against the target fixed;

(b) what is the nature of the additional facilities provided in the hospitals for indoor and out-door patients at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan to provide prompt medical care;

(c) whether the provision of extra beds/additional facilities is adequate to meet the rising demand due to increase in the population and influx into Delhi from neighbouring States; and

(d) what are the details of the plans drawn up to cope with the rising demand for beds and other facilities during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF HEAILTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a)No target was fixed for the increzase of bed strength during the Seventh Plan period. However, 2495 beds have been added during the 7th Plan period in various Government hospitals in Delhi.